

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 12922

EO 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MASS, MX

SUBJ : NSSM 243 - MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF : STATE 249431

1. (C) REF DESCRIBED WORKING GROUP STUDY OF FUTURE STRUCTURE OF MAAG/SAO STRUCTURES IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS IN THIS REGARD. COMMENTS ON OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WERE REQUESTED WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE WILLINGNESS OF HOST GOVERNMENT TO PICK UP A GREATER PORTION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDING.

2. (C) MY COMMENTS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN MEXICO FOLLOW:

A. I EMPHATICALLY RECOMMEND NO CHANGE TO THE PRESENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR MEXICO, I.E., ONE DETAILED ENLISTED MEMBER ON LOAN FROM USSOUTHCOM SUPERVISED BY THE DEFENSE ATTACHE. THIS RESULTS IN APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-THIRD MAN YEARS ANNUALLY TO COORDINATE THE ENTIRE MEXICO SAP.

B. THE PRESENT EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION IS IDEALLY TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES AND THE TYPE AND QUANTITY OF AID PROGRAMMED BY THE U.S. FURTHER, THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION PROVIDES AN IRREPLACEABLE INTRE' TO
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THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES FOR MY MILITARY ATTACHES AND HAS

LED TO MANY OTHERWISE UNOBTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG WELL-PLACED STAFF OFFICERS. ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE THE MOST DAMAGING ASPECT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION IS THAT PROVISION WHICH WOULD SEPARATE THE DAO FROM THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTION.

C. (C) I CONSIDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO BE INVALUABLE IN TERMS OF PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRO-U.S. ATTITUDES AMONG JUNIOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL. I VIEW OF THE PROXIMITY AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MEXICO TO THE U.S. AND THE HISTORY OF MEXICAN SUSPICION OF U.S. MOTIVES AND ACTIONS, ANY MEASURE TAKEN TO FAVORABLY INFLUENCE MILITARY ATTITUDES, EVEN LONG TERM, FAR OUTWEIGHS THE RELATIVELY SMALL DOLLAR COSTS INVOLVED. IT FOLLOWS THAT I CONSIDER ANY REVISION TO THE PROGRAM WHICH DOWNGRADES THE PRESENT CAPABILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE.

D. (C) IF FORCED TO CHOOSE ONE OPTION OF THE THREE PROVIDED BY REF MSG, AND ASSUMING NO RELIEF FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DAO INVOLVEMENT, THE LEAST HARMFUL MODIFICATION TO THE PRESENT STATUS WOULD BE OPTION B, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR PERSONNEL WITH WHICH TO CREATE A SEPARATE SAO CONSISTING OF TWO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL (ADDITION OF ONE FIELD GRADE OFFICER TO THE ASSIGNED SENIOR ENLISTED), REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THIS OPTION PROVIDES PERSONNEL IN EXCESS OF A VALID REQUIREMENT AS NOTED ABOVE.

E. (C) PREVIOUS LIAISON WITH MEXICAN MILITARY INDICATES AN UNWILLINGNESS, IF NOT INABILITY, TO ASSUME GREATER PORTIONS OF SAP COSTS. THE RECENT PESO DEVALUATION HAS UNDOUBTEDLY EXACERBATED THIS ATTITUDE. FURTHER, THE USSR, EAST GERMANY AND CUBA ARE OFFERING TRAINING PROGRAMS AT NO COST WHICH, IF ACCEPTED BY MEXICO, COULD CREATE A SERIOUS REVERSAL OF ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. AND THE MILITARY. IN THIS REGARD SEE IR 6 864 0153 76.

F. (C) IN SUMMARY, I RECOMMEND THAT LEGISLATIVE RELIEF OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS BE SOUGHT IN THE CASE OF
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MEXICO SO THAT THE PRESENT EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE SAP ORGANIZATION IS MAINTAINED. IF RELIEF IS NOT FORTHCOMING, RECOMMEND THAT A SMALL SAO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE EMBASSY TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. JOVA

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